

# Renovations

House renovations can range in size from replacing windows or a new coat of paint to adding a second or third floor of living space or a wing to a house. These can provide for more living space and more natural daylight, enhancing the quality and value of a house. Renovations can also harm a house if poorly executed and even the most beautiful house could become an eyesore despite an expensive addition. Similarly, an inexpensive, but well-detailed modification to an existing house could add significant value.

The key to effective renovating lies in understanding the appropriate design elements, massing and appropriate materials that create the architecture of a house. This section and the next will help homeowners identify their traditional house style and offer strategies for designing renovations and additions that can give the house a distinct character related to one of the traditional Norfolk styles.

## Scope

Before starting, determine the scope of your project. Would you like a new look for your house, just need a few repairs, or do you need more living space? By understanding the scope of your desired improvements, you will be able to determine if this is a do-it-yourself repair or requires the expertise of a builder or architect.

**Renovations** may include window replacement, a new front door, front porch restoration, roof and gutter replacement, brick repointing and repair, new paint, new siding or the replacement of aged or damaged siding. Larger renovations may include adding box and bay windows, dormers and porches.

**Additions** are generally larger than renovations and may consist of major changes to the house especially in terms of the massing of the house. Additions may include the construction of a wing—typically on the side or rear, the addition of a second or habitable third story, or the construction of an ancillary structure, such as a garage, somewhere on the site. In general, additions should reflect the architectural style of the main house

body. Additions to post-war houses, as discussed on the Transformation pages (C-23 – C-25), should tend toward one of the applicable Norfolk styles.

## Age

After you have a sense of the size of your project, determine the age of your house. The age of your neighborhood may be a good clue. Do you live in a nineteenth-century, early-twentieth-century, or post-war neighborhood? Refer to the Neighborhood Patterns section for more information.

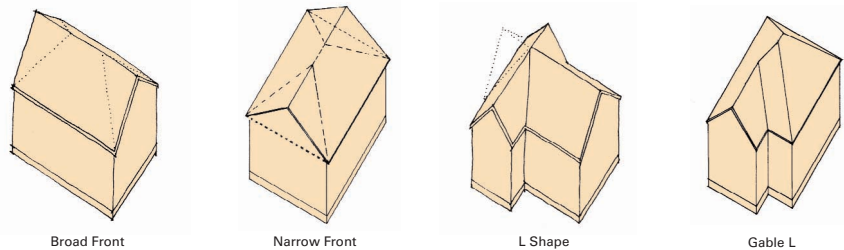
## Style

Finally, identify the architectural style of your house:

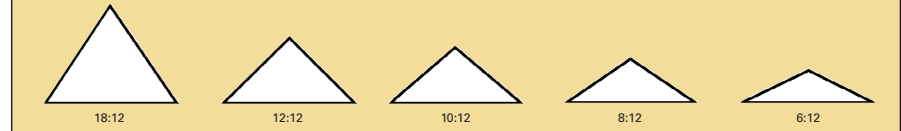
### 1 DETERMINE MASSING FORM

Compare the shape of your house with the index of massings (basic house shapes) shown below.

BASIC MASSING TYPES FOR NORFOLK HOUSES



ROOF PITCHES



APPROPRIATE ROOF PITCHES FOR ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

MASSING	18 TO 13:12	12:12	11:12	10:12	9:12	8:12	7:12	6:12	5:12
<b>Broad</b>	—	—	—	—	Class. Rev.	Class. Rev.	Class. Rev.	—	—
	—	Col. Rev.	Col. Rev.	Col. Rev.	Col. Rev.	Col. Rev.	Col. Rev.	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	Arts & Crafts	Arts & Crafts	Arts & Crafts	Arts & Crafts
	—	Coastal	Coastal	Coastal	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Narrow</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	Class. Rev.	Class. Rev.	Class. Rev.
	—	Col. Rev.	Col. Rev.	Col. Rev.	Col. Rev.	Col. Rev.	Col. Rev.	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	Arts & Crafts	Arts & Crafts	Arts & Crafts	Arts & Crafts
	—	Victorian	Victorian	Victorian	Victorian	Victorian	—	—	—
<b>L-Shape</b>	—	—	—	—	—	Arts & Crafts	Arts & Crafts	Arts & Crafts	—
	—	—	Victorian	Victorian	Victorian	Victorian	—	—	—
	European	European	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coastal	Coastal	Coastal	Coastal	Coastal	Coastal	—	—	—
<b>Gable L</b>	—	—	—	Col. Rev.	Col. Rev.	Col. Rev.	Col. Rev.	Col. Rev.	—
	—	—	—	—	—	Arts & Crafts	Arts & Crafts	Arts & Crafts	—
	—	Victorian	Victorian	Victorian	Victorian	Victorian	—	—	—
	European	European	—	—	—	—	—	—	—